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Approved For Release 2001/05/01 : CIA-RDP82S00697R000900010002-8

1 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Attendance at meeting of the Working Group of the Interagency Law of the Sea Task Force

1. On 28 October I participated in a special meeting of the Working Group of the Interagency Law of the Sea Task Force, held at the Department of State. Called by Mr. John R. Stevenson, the State Department Legal Adviser and chairman of the Task Force, the purpose of the meeting was to advise the member agencies of the various projects currently underway or contemplated in support of U.S. Law of the Sea (LOS) activities and to invite interagency cooperation and coordination in their preparation.

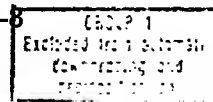
2. Mr. Myron Nordquist, State/Legal, speaking on behalf of Mr. Stevenson, told of the urgency and importance of these projects to U.S. policymakers and LOS negotiators. He asked that for each major project an informal subcommittee within the Working Group be formed with representation from those departments which have an interest and competence in the subject. He further recommended that the departments notify the Working Group when they plan to undertake a major LOS project so as to avoid a duplication of effort. This, of course, would not be needed for routine agency LOS reporting.

3. Major projects that are currently underway are:

a. International Straits Study - This study will tabulate geographic, political, economic and military information on many international straits of the world and will assess their strategic value to the U.S. and foreign powers. Two such studies were being prepared concurrently by State and DoD. It was agreed that the State Department's Office of the Geographer will handle this project with support invited from several departments. CIA will seek to provide information on the military and commercial use of specific straits by foreign countries, and will probably be called on to assist in the production of maps.

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b. Country LOS Position Papers - This project, to be prepared under the direction of State/International Organizations, will present an assessment of the LOS positions and interests of numerous countries. CIA will be asked to review the draft papers and to furnish information on certain countries where gaps exist.

c. LOS Data Bank - A limited version of this data bank has been prepared by State/Legal and is available for use by members of the Working Group. Growth of the data bank does not appear likely at this time. CIA/OBGI has taken steps to include several maritime topics from the data bank in the NIS Basic Intelligence Factbook.

4. LOS projects that are contemplated include:

- a. Seabed Area Computations - A tabulation of seabed areas under national and international jurisdiction that result when applying several depth and/or distance offshore boundary limits is presently needed. Mr. Hodgson, State Department/Office of the Geographer, indicated that in the near future he will ask the computer personnel of the CIA/OBGI Cartography Division to make these computations.

b. Seabed Quality Study - With the limited information available this project would assess the type, location and value of mineral wealth on and beneath the seabeds of the world. A group of mineral specialists from Interior Department's Geological Survey would probably conduct this study.

c. International Fisheries Study - There is a need to estimate the benefits and impairments to the various fishing nations of the world that would result from several recent international LOS fishing proposals. State Department Coordinator of Ocean Affairs and Commerce Department/National Marine Fisheries Service would collaborate on this.

d. U.S. position papers on marine scientific research and marine pollution as they relate to the forthcoming 1973 UN LOS Conference.

5. The Task Force renewed its request that CIA provide a comprehensive collection of biographic profiles of foreign LOS personalities. Multiple copies of a standard format profile, filed in loose-leaf binders, was suggested. This material will be invaluable to U.S. LOS negotiators in meetings that are being held with their foreign counterparts around the

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world, and at the three planned UN Seabeds Committee Meetings to be held in 1972 in preparation for the 1973 UN Conference. I am presently discussing this request with CRS.

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CIA Representative,
Interagency LOS Task Force

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